(b) The projected customs duty on import of crude oil and refined petroleum products for the year 2002-2003 is Rs. 7530 crore.

(c) There is a provision of Rs. 4495.80 crore in the budget estimates of 2002-03 on account of subsidy on domestic LPG and PDS kerosene.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Sale of AI property in Mauritius

4953. SHRIMATIVANGAGEETHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the residential property owned by Air India in Mauritius is being sold;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the plan to invest the amount received from the above deal?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) The company has been incurring approximately Rs. 2.06 lakhs per annum on the maintenance of this property. Also the entire property is in a dilapidated condition which would involve major repairs at the cost of Rs. 4.29 lakhs. Hence it was felt that this is not required for functionalities of a manager of an offline station. Air India has, therefore, recommended that it would be in the company's interest to sell the property. The sale proceeds of the Mauritius property will be used for the working capital requirements of the company.

Compensation to offloaded passengers by AI

4954. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India gives compensation to passengers offloaded from US bound flights;

(b) whether similar compensation is not offered by Air India to travellers offloaded from flights bound for other destinations;

(c) whether some foreign airlines do pay such amount in small sums and some even don't pay;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to remove the anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Air India does not pay compensation to passengers offloaded on any flights. However, such passengers are provided with hotel accommodation, transportation, international telephone call and all meals and are confirmed on the next flight.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Some foreign airlines pay compensation. However, many airlines do not pay compensation because passengers are not penalised in many way for not travelling on the booked flight or for last-minute cancellations, resulting in heavy no-shows ex-India. Consequently, airlines overbook their flights sufficiently so that they do not operate underload. Since there is no national law on this subject, the denied boarding compensation is governed by the airlines own policy and regulations.

(e) Most airlines in India are following the policy of providing to the offloaded passengers hotel accommodation, transportation, international telephone call, all meals and the next flight to their destinations.

Fall in passenger load in National Carrier

4955. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that passenger load have fallen in national air carrier because of competition from Jet and Sahara airways; and

(b) if so, in what manner Government propose to come out of such a situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Domestic passengers carried by Indian Airlines, Jet Airways and Sahara Airlines in the year 2000 and 2001 are as follows:

Year	Domestic Passengers Carried (In Lakhs)		
	Indian Airlines	Jet Airways	Sahara Airlines
2000	62.87	58.13	8.15
2001	60.69	57.19	6.04

Passenger traffic of Indian Airlines and other operators has decreased due to reduction in overall traffic, especially after the events of 11 th September.

World class Airports in Metropolitan Cities

4956. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade international airports in metropolitan cities to the standards of world class airports;